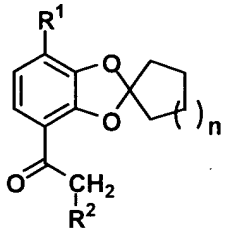
a). Amendments to the Claims

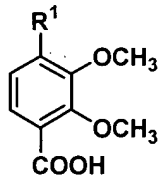
1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative represented by formula (VII)



(VII)

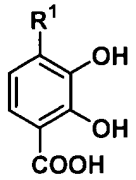
(wherein $R^1$ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; $R^2$ represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

treating a compound represented by formula (I)



(I)

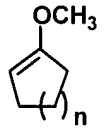
~~(wherein $R^1$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~ with hydrogen iodide to give a compound represented by formula (II)



(II)

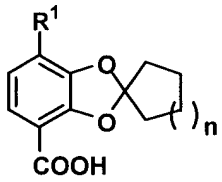
~~(wherein $R^1$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~;

allowing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (II) to react with a compound represented by formula (III)



(III)

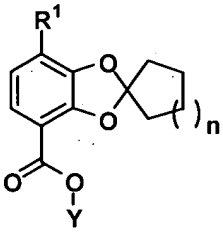
~~(wherein n has the same meaning as defined above)~~ to give a compound represented by formula (IV)



(IV)

~~(wherein $R^1$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively)~~;

converting the resulting compound represented by the above formula (IV) into a compound represented by formula (V)

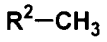


(V)

(wherein ~~$R^1$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively; and~~ Y represents lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, substituted or

unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group);

adding a base to a mixture containing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (V) and a compound represented by formula (VI)

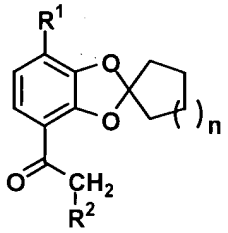


(VI)

~~(wherein $R^2$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~;

and allowing the compound represented by the above formula (V) to react with the compound represented by the above formula (VI).

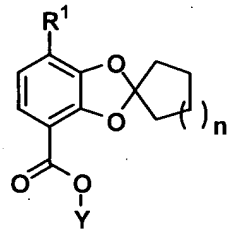
2. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative represented by formula (VII)



(VII)

(wherein ~~$R^1$, $R^2$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively)~~ $R^1$ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; $R^2$ represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

adding a base to a mixture containing a compound represented by formula (V)



(V)

(wherein ~~$R^1$, n and Y have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ Y represents lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group)

and a compound represented by formula (VI)

$R^2-CH_3$

(VI)

~~(wherein $R^2$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~;

and allowing the compound represented by the above formula (V) to react with the compound represented by the above formula (VI).

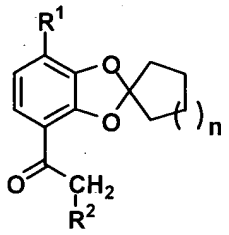
3. (Original) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the base is lithium bis(trimethylsilyl)amide.

4. (Original) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to Claim 3, wherein the reaction temperature when

the compound represented by formula (V) reacts with the compound represented by formula (VI) is between -10°C and 50°C.

5. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim1 or 2, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

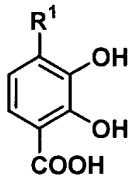
6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative represented by formula (VII)



(VII)

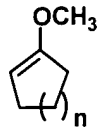
(wherein ~~$R^1$, $R^2$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ $R^1$ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; $R^2$ represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which ~~comprisis~~ comprises:

allowing a compound represented by formula (II)



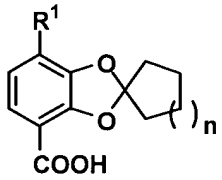
(II)

~~(wherein $R^1$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~ to react with a compound represented by formula (III)



(III)

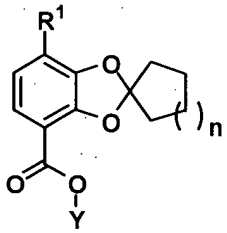
~~(wherein n represents an integer of from 1 to 6)~~ to give a compound represented by formula (IV)



(IV)

~~(wherein $R^1$ and n have the same meanings as defined above)~~;

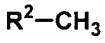
converting the resulting compound represented by the above formula (IV) into a compound represented by formula (V)



(V)

(wherein ~~$R^1$, n and Y have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ Y represents lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group);

adding a base to a mixture containing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (V) and a compound represented by formula (VI)

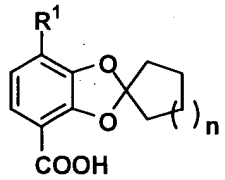


(VI)

~~(wherein $R^2$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~;

and allowing the compound represented by the above formula (V) to react with the compound represented by the above formula (VI).

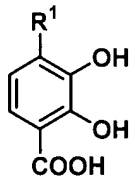
7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound represented by formula (IV)



(IV)

(wherein ~~$R^1$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ $R^1$ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

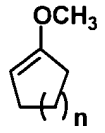
allowing a compound represented by formula (II)



(II)

~~(wherein $R^1$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~ to react with a

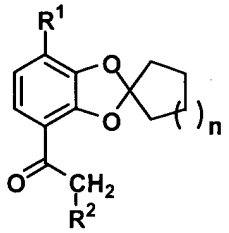
compound represented by formula (III)



(III)

~~(wherein n has the same meaning as defined above)~~.

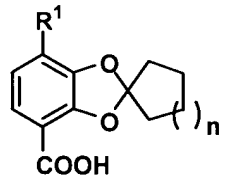
8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative represented by formula (VII)



(VII)

(wherein $R^1$~~, $R^2$ and n have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy; $R^2$ represents substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group; and n represents an integer of from 1 to 6), which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

converting a compound represented by formula (IV)

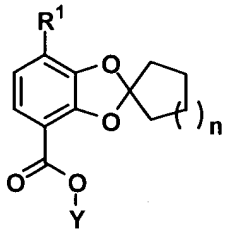


(IV)

~~(wherein $R^1$ and n have the same meanings as defined above~~

~~respectively~~ )

into a compound represented by formula (V)



(V)

(wherein $R^1$~~, n and Y have the same meanings as defined above respectively~~ Y represents lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group);

adding a base to a mixture containing the resulting compound represented by the above formula (V) and a compound represented by formula (VI)

$R^2$–$CH_3$

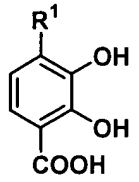
(VI)

~~(wherein $R^2$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~;

and allowing the compound represented by the above formula (V) to react with the compound represented by the above formula (VI).

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound represented by formula (II)

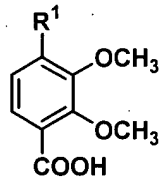
9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound represented by formula (II)




(II)

(wherein $R^1$ ~~has the same meaning as defined above~~ represents hydroxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy), which ~~comprises~~ comprises:

treating a compound represented by formula (I)




(I)

~~(wherein $R^1$ has the same meaning as defined above)~~ with hydrogen iodide.

10. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 6 and 8~~ Claims 1, 2, 6 or 8, wherein $R^2$ is a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to 10~~ Claims 1, 2 and 6-9, wherein $R^1$ is methoxy.

12. (New) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to Claim 3, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

13. (New) The process for preparing a 1,3-benzodioxole-2-spirocycloalkane derivative according to Claim 4, wherein Y is *n*-butyl.

14. (New) The process for preparing according to Claim 10, wherein $R^1$ is methoxy.